

## Claims

### What is claimed is:

1. A shoe rack comprising:

at least one frame structure;

5 a hanger coupled to said frame structure, said hanger being shaped to couple said shoe rack to a generally vertically-oriented support surface such that said frame structure is located generally adjacent to said support surface;

10 wherein the frame structure includes a plurality of support arms shaped to extend generally away from said support surface when said frame structure is located generally adjacent to said support surface;

a plurality of generally horizontally-oriented, vertically spaced inner rungs coupled to said frame structure;

a plurality of generally horizontally-oriented, vertically spaced outer rungs coupled to said frame structure; and

15 a plurality of generally vertically-oriented struts, each strut extending between adjacent ones of said outer rungs or adjacent ones of said support arms to provide vertical support to said outer rungs and said support arms.

20 2. The shoe rack of claim 1 wherein each inner rung extends between adjacent ones of said support arms and each outer rung extends between adjacent ones of said support arms.

25 3. The shoe rack of claim 1 wherein the inner rungs, outer rungs, struts, support arms, and at least part of said frame structure form a plurality of generally closed, vertically stacked box-like structures.

4. The shoe rack of claim 3 wherein each box-like structure includes inner rungs, outer rungs, struts, support arms, and at least part of said frame structure forming front, rear, left and right sides, each of said sides being generally planar and generally perpendicular to each other.

30 5. The shoe rack of claim 1 wherein the frame structure includes a pair of frames, said frames being generally parallel and spaced apart from each other, each frame including a

generally longitudinally-extending base portion and at least two spaced support arms extending generally perpendicular to and generally away from the associated base portion.

6. The shoe rack of claim 5 wherein each inner and outer rung extends generally perpendicular to the base portion and to the support arms of both frames, and wherein each strut extends generally parallel to the base and generally perpendicular to the support arms of both frames.

7. The shoe rack of claim 1 wherein each strut is integrally formed with an associated support arm.

8. The shoe rack of claim 1 wherein each strut is removably coupled to said support arms.

9. The shoe rack of claim 8 wherein said frame structure further includes a plurality of strut receptacles which receive said struts therein in an interference fit.

10. The shoe rack of claim 1 wherein each outer rung is removably coupled to said frame structure.

11. The shoe rack of claim 1 wherein said frame structure includes a plurality of outer rung receptacles which receive said outer rungs therein in an interference fit.

12. The shoe rack of claim 1 wherein each inner rung is removably coupled to said frame structure.

13. The shoe rack of claim 1 wherein said frame structure further includes a plurality of inner rung receptacles which receive said inner rungs therein in an interference fit.

14. The shoe rack of claim 1 wherein each support arm is integral with said frame structure.

15. The shoe rack of claim 1 wherein said frame structure further includes an upper connector portion and a lower connector portion such that at least one additional frame structure can be coupled to said frame structure via said upper and lower connector portions in a modular manner.

16. The shoe rack of claim 15 wherein said upper connector portion and said lower connector portion further includes a plurality of teeth.

10 17. The shoe rack of claim 16 further comprising a cover adapted to couple to said lower connector portion and provide a smooth outer appearance to said lower connector portion.

15 18. The shoe rack of claim 15 further including a brace which can be coupled to said frame structure and to said additional frame structure to couple said frame structures together.

19. The shoe rack of claim 1 wherein said hanger is removably coupled to said frame structure.

20 20. The shoe rack of claim 1 wherein said hanger further includes a generally inverted "U" shaped receiving portion adapted to fit over an upper edge of said support surface.

21. The shoe rack of claim 20 wherein said hanger includes a plurality of perforations to facilitate removal of said receiving portion and a plurality of openings to receive fasteners therethrough to couple said hanger to said support surface.

25 22. The shoe rack of claim 1 wherein each outer rung is generally horizontally aligned with an associated inner rung.

23. A shoe rack comprising:

at least one frame structure including a base portion and a plurality of supports extending generally away from said base portion, said frame structure including a plurality of inner rung coupling portions and a plurality of outer rung coupling portions;

5                   a hanger coupled or adapted to be coupled to said frame structure, said hanger being shaped to couple said shoe rack to a generally vertically-oriented support surface;

                      a plurality of inner rungs adapted to couple to said inner rung coupling portions of said frame structure such that the inner rungs extend generally perpendicular to said frame structure, said inner rungs being adapted to couple to said inner rung portions such that said inner rungs are generally aligned in a first plane;

10                  a plurality of outer rungs adapted to couple to said outer rung coupling portions of said frame structure such that the outer rungs extend generally perpendicular to said frame structure and generally parallel to said plurality of inner rungs, said outer rungs being adapted to couple to said outer rung portions such that said outer rungs are generally aligned in a second plane that is generally parallel to and spaced apart from said first plane; and

15                  a plurality of struts adapted to extend between adjacent ones of said support arms or said outer rungs to provide support to said outer rungs and said support arms.

24. The shoe rack of claim 23 wherein each inner rung is adapted to extend between adjacent ones of said support arms and each outer rung is adapted to extend between adjacent ones of said support arms.

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25. The shoe rack of claim 23 wherein the inner rungs, outer rungs, struts, support arms, and at least part of said frame structure are adapted to form a plurality of generally closed, vertically stacked box-like structures when assembled.

26. The shoe rack of claim 23 wherein the frame structure includes a pair of frames, said frames being adapted to be generally parallel and spaced apart from each other.

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27. The shoe rack of claim 23 wherein said hanger includes a generally inverted "U" shaped receiving portion adapted to fit over an upper edge of said support surface.

28. The shoe rack of claim 23 wherein each outer rung is adapted to be generally aligned with an associated inner rung.

29. A method for assembling a shoe rack, comprising the steps of:

5           obtaining at least one frame structure having a hanger coupled thereto, said hanger being shaped to couple said shoe rack to a generally vertically-oriented support surface such that said frame structure is located generally adjacent to said support surface, and wherein the frame structure includes a plurality of support arms extending generally away from said support surface when said frame structure is located generally adjacent to said support surface,  
10 and wherein the support arms include a plurality of struts extending generally perpendicularly between adjacent ones of said support arms to provide vertical support to said outer rungs and said support arms;

coupling a plurality of generally horizontally-oriented, vertically spaced inner rungs to said frame structure; and

15           coupling a plurality of generally horizontally-oriented, vertically spaced outer rungs to said frame structure.

20           30. The method of claim 29 further comprising the step of coupling said shoe rack to said vertical support surface.

25           31. The method of claim 30 further comprising the step of locating shoes on said shoe rack such that said shoes rest on and are supported by selected ones of said inner and outer rungs.

32. A method for storing shoes, comprising the steps of:

providing a shoe rack, wherein the shoe rack includes

at least one frame structure,

a hanger coupled to said frame structure, said hanger being shaped to couple said shoe rack to a generally vertically-oriented support surface such that said frame structure is located generally adjacent to said support surface,

wherein the frame structure includes a plurality of support arms shaped to extend generally away from said support surface when said frame structure is located generally adjacent to said support surface,

a plurality of generally horizontally-oriented, vertically spaced inner rungs coupled to said frame structure,

a plurality of generally horizontally-oriented, vertically spaced outer rungs coupled to said frame structure, and

a plurality of generally vertically-oriented struts, each strut extending between adjacent ones of said outer rungs or adjacent ones of said support arms to provide vertical support to said outer rungs and said support arms;

coupling the shoe rack over a generally vertically-oriented support surface; and

placing a pair of shoes onto the inner and outer rungs such that the shoes rest on the inner and outer rungs.

15           33. A shoe rack comprising:

a frame structure;

a hanger coupled to said frame structure, said hanger being shaped to couple said shoe rack to a generally vertically-oriented support surface such that said frame structure is located generally adjacent to said support surface;

wherein the frame structure includes a plurality of support arms extending generally away from said support surface;

a plurality of generally horizontally-oriented, vertically spaced inner rungs coupled to said frame structure; and

a plurality of generally horizontally-oriented, vertically spaced outer rungs extending between adjacent ones of said support arms, wherein each outer rung is generally horizontally aligned with an associate inner rung.

30           34. The shoe rack of claim 33, further including a plurality of generally vertically-extending connectors, each connector extending between adjacent ones of said outer rungs, adjacent ones of said inner rungs, or adjacent ones of said support arms to provide vertical support to said inner rungs, outer rungs, or support arms.

35. A shoe rack comprising:

a pair of frames, said frames being generally parallel and spaced apart from each other, each frame including a generally longitudinally-extending base and at least two spaced

5 support arms extending generally perpendicular to and generally away from said base;

a pair of spaced, generally parallel inner rungs extending generally perpendicular to and between said frames;

a pair of spaced, generally parallel outer rungs extending generally perpendicular to and between said frames;

10 a pair of spaced, generally parallel struts, each strut extending generally parallel to and between portions of an associated frame;

wherein said frames, inner rungs, outer rungs and struts form a generally closed box-like shape; and

a hanger coupled to at least one of said frames, said hanger being shaped to

15 couple said shoe rack to a generally vertically-oriented support surface.